



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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## TURTLE LAKE GETS USDA GRANT FOR CENTER

**TURTLE LAKE**, July 15, 2005 – USDA Rural Development's Housing Program Director, Donald Warren today, during Turtle Lake's Centennial Turtle Days, presented a ceremonial check for \$20,000 to the City of Turtle Lake.

The Economic Impact Initiative Grant will fund planning and design work on the proposed "2005 Centennial Center." Preliminary plans for the proposed center include a wellness and fitness center, senior citizens and youth center and library.

A location for the center has been selected, and likely will be built in the vicinity of the Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way, near the old railroad depot.

Community Facilities Economic Impact Initiative Grant funds are designed to develop essential community facilities in rural communities with extreme high unemployment and severe economic depression.

Low-income communities under 10,000 in population, with a "not employed rate" of 19.5 percent, who can meet the requirements of the USDA Direct Community Facilities Grant Program, may be eligible for this funding. Grants are made available to public entities, such as municipalities, counties, and special-service districts, as well as to eligible nonprofit corporations and tribal governments. Essential community facilities are those facilities or equipment, which are customarily provided by a local unit of government and are a public improvement needed for the orderly development of a rural community

USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities. Our role is to increase rural residents' economic opportunities and improve their quality of life. Rural Development forges partnerships with rural communities, funding projects that bring housing, community facilities, utilities and other services. We also provide technical assistance and financial backing for rural businesses and cooperatives to create quality jobs in rural areas.

In Fiscal Year 2004, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$78 million dollars** in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens.

Further information on these and other rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

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